

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended). The therapeutic method use according to claim ~~±~~ 11, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said SLNs have a mean diameter comprised between 50 and 400 nm, and a polydispersion comprised of between 0.06 and 0.30.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The therapeutic method use according to claim ~~±~~ 11, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said SLNs have an average diameter comprised between 100 and 200 nm and a polydispersion comprised of between 0.10 and 0.20.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The therapeutic method use according to claim ~~±~~ 11, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said SLNs have a pharmacologically active substance content comprised of between 0.1 and 7.0%.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (currently amended). The therapeutic method ~~use~~ according to claim ~~4~~ 11, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said pharmacologically active substance is selected from the group comprising: amphotericin, miconazole, ganciclovir, saquinavir, acyclovir, famciclovir, vidarabine, idoxuridine,  $\beta$ -interferon, paclitaxel, methotrexate, doxorubicin, angiopoietin 1, diclophenac, indomethacin, ketorolac, piroxicam, flurbiprofen, dexamethasone, triamcinolone, hydrocortisone, fluorometholone, rimexolone, timolol, betaxolol and acetazolamide.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The therapeutic method ~~use~~ according to claim ~~4~~ 11, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said SLNs are prepared by a process wherein:

a) a molten lipid substance containing a drug or its complex is mixed with a mixture comprising water, a surfactant, a cosurfactant and optionally a counterion of the drug, pre-warmed to a temperature at least equal to the melting temperature of said lipid substance, thus obtaining a microemulsion having a

temperature at least equal to the melting temperature of said lipid substance;

b) the microemulsion obtained in step a) is dispersed in water or in an aqueous medium cooled to a temperature comprised between 2 and 5°C, thus obtaining a dispersion of solid lipidic nanoparticles incorporating the drug;

c) the dispersion obtained in step b) is washed with water or with an aqueous medium by diafiltration with the practically total elimination of the surfactant and the consurfactant;

d) the dispersion obtained in step c) is dried by lyophilisation or by spray drying or by evaporation, thus obtaining the solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) with the drug incorporated.

Claim 9 (currently amended). The therapeutic method ~~use~~ according to claim 8, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the microemulsion obtained in step a) is added to a mixture comprising water, a surfactant, a consurfactant and a lipid warmed to a temperature at least equal to the melting temperature of the lipid and the mixture thus obtained is dispersed in water

or in an aqueous medium cooled to a temperature comprised of between 2 and 5°C.

Claim 10 (currently amended). The therapeutic method use according to claim 8, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ at the end of step a) a substance suitable for stabilising the SLNs is added selected from the group comprising dipalmitoyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine-PEG, diacyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine-PEG (PEG M. W. 750-2000) and fatty acids pegylated with PEG-methylethers (PEG M.W. 750-2000).

Claim 11 (currently amended). A therapeutic method for the treatment of ophthalmic diseases comprising the intravenous or topical ocular administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising solid lipidic nanoparticles containing a pharmacologically active substance suitable for the treatment of said ophthalmic diseases.

Claim 12 (currently amended). The therapeutic method use according to claim 11, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the dosage for intravenous administration is an amount of said composition containing to 0.01-5.0 milligrams of active substance per kilogram of body weight.

Claim 13 (currently amended). The therapeutic method according claim 11, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the dosage for topical ocular administration is an amount of said composition containing to 0.01-5.0 milligrams of active substance for each eye.

Claim 14 (original). A pharmaceutical composition suitable for the treatment of ophthalmic diseases by intravenous or topical ocular administration, consisting essentially of an isotonic aqueous dispersion of solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) having a mean diameter comprised between 50 and 400 nm and polydispersion comprised between 50 and 400 nm and polydispersion comprised between 0.06 and 0.30, a pharmacologically active substance for the treatment of said diseases being incorporated within said SLNs.

Claim 15 (currently amended). The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said aqueous dispersion contains a viscosizing substance.

Claim 16 (currently amended). The composition according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said SLNs have a mean

diameter comprised between 100 and 200 nm and polydispersion comprised between 0.10 and 0.20.

Claim 17 (currently amended). The composition according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ for the intravenous administration, said isotonic aqueous dispersion has a concentration of SLNs comprised of between 10 and 250 mg/ml.

Claim 18 (currently amended). The composition according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ for the topical ocular administration, said isonic aqueous dispersion has a concentration of SLNs comprised between 1 and 25% w/v and contains from 0.1 to 0.4% of a viscosizing substance.

Claim 19 (currently amended). The composition according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said SLNs have a pharmacologically active substance content comprised between 0.1 and 7.0%:

Claim 20 (currently amended). The composition according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said pharmacologically active substance is selected from the group comprising:  
amphotericin, miconazole, ganciclovir, saquinavir, acyclovir,

famciclovir, vidarabine, idoxuridine,  $\beta$ -interferon, paclitaxel, methotrexate, doxorubicin, angiopoietin 1, diclophenac, indomethacin, ketorolac, piroxicam, flurbiprofen, dexamethasone, triamcinolone, hydrocortisone, fluorometholone, rimexolone, timolol, betaxolol e acetazolamide.

Claim 21 (currently amended). Compositions according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the lipid of said SLNs is selected from the group comprising trilaurine, tricapriloil, tristearine, tripalmitine, capric/caprylic triglycerides, dipalmitine, distearine, glyceryl monostearate, glyceryl palmitostearate, cetylic alcohol, stearyl alcohol, fatty acids having C10-C22 chains, cholesteryl hemisuccinate, cholesteryl butyrate and cholesteryl palmitate.